

-----57B27A 221049Z /38  
O 221046Z APR 09  
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8215  
INFO SOUTHERN AF DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE  
AFRICAN UNION COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS PRETORIA 000805

FOR AF/S WILLS, JAMES AND MARBURG  
FOR DRL WILLET AND GILBRIDE

E.O. 12958:N/A  
TAGS: [KDEM](#) [ASEC](#) [SF](#)  
SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICA VOTES: SITUATION REPORT #1

1. Summary: Mission observer teams and local media outlets report generally smooth operations as polls opened April 22 for South Africa's fourth 1994. Days before the vote, the Independent Electoral Commission predicted an eighty percent turn out, a prediction reiterated by local media reported open on time. 100 of over 14,000 stations did not open on time. The Embassy has deployed 150 observers throughout the country. The f embassy reporting teams and local media outlets. End Summary.

-----  
PARTIES KNOW THE DRILL  
-----

2. All Mission teams have confirmed the presence of party observers in polling stations, working in concert with Independent Election Commission. Not surprisingly, the ANC, with the greatest manpower and resources, has deployed party observers to almost every polling station. The ANC has safeguard the rights of their voters; few parties have complained about this presence. Embassy teams have reported witnessing COPE and DA buses

-----  
ONE PERSON, ONE VOTE?  
-----

3. Most polling stations are following a four-step verification and safeguard process: matching the voter to his/her picture; verifying the voter's ink; stamping the voter's ID before receiving a ballot. Voting stations are three-walled boxes without curtains, but

-----  
BUMPS IN THE ROAD  
-----

4. Reports of isolated irregularities have come in from Embassy teams and the media. In some polling stations, there was only one ballot box for IFP in Ulundi in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) were discovered, and the polling station head was arrested and charged with election fraud. By computer voter receipt paper and running low on indelible ink. In several locations, party representatives, most often African National Congress within restricted areas at polling stations, but were not interfering with voting.

-----  
OUR SECURITY SECURED  
-----

5. RSO is in contact with South African Diplomatic Police, who are aware of the whereabouts of our 31 teams comprised of approximately 150 volunteers. Management have assured us that security situation is calm nationwide.

LA LIME